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This question of the practicability of using the Kavangire is now under consideration by Professor Earle and his co-workers in Porto Rico, and at the same time further observations will be made upon the immunity of this variety to the mottling disease. Unfortunately, the available supply of plant cane of Kavangire in Porto Rico is limited. It will take a number of years to propagate enough of this variety to make it available for general planting. In the meantime its adaptability to the Porto Rican climatic and labor conditions will be determined. It appears to be a strong ratooner and to have considerable resistance to root disease, borer and stem rot. If these indications prove true Kavangire should enable the grower to keep his fields in profitable production longer without replanting than is possible with the varieties now in general use. This will reduce the cost of production, even though the habit of growth and quality of the cane should make it a somewhat more expensive variety to handle and to mill.

C. O. TOWNSEND

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

#### THE USE OF POISON GAS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In regard to the article on "Poison Gases" by Major West, in your issue of May 2, 1919, the statement on p. 415 that at the Hague Conference of 1899 "the governments represented—and all the warring powers of the present great conflict were represented—pledged themselves not to use any projectiles whose only object was to give out suffocating or poisonous gases" is not correct. Twenty-six nations voted on the question, all but two being in the affirmative. The dissenting two were Great Britain and the United States. At the conference of 1907, Great Britain gave way and signed, but the United States refused. The reasons for the action of the United States are set forth clearly and, in my opinion, unanswerably by Admiral Mahan, the leader of the U. S. delegation, in a formal statement that he made on the occasion.

HENRY LEFFMANN

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#### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

##### RENAISSANCE ANATOMY

AMONG the interesting papers published in "Studies in the History and Method of Science," edited by Charles Singer, and printed in Oxford by the Clarendon Press, 1917, is an important contribution of fundamental interest to students of the history of anatomy. The entire series of essays has been previously reviewed by Dr. Charles Dana<sup>1</sup> and we may confine our attention to Dr. Singer's "Study in Early Renaissance Anatomy," which occupies 84 pages of the book.

This study is subdivided:

- I. Anatomy in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries.
  - II. Bolognese Works on Anatomy.
  - III. Hieronymo Manfredi, Professor at Bologna, 1463-93.
  - IV. The Manuscript *Anatomy* of Manfredi.
  - V. Translation of selected Passages from the *Anothomia*, with Commentary.
    - (a) The Brain, Cranial Nerves, etc.
    - (b) The Eye.
    - (c) The Heart.
- Italian Text of the *Anothomia*.

There is little that is new in the first two sections, although there is much interesting material, accompanied by a wealth of bibliographic details which will save the worker in anatomical history much time and labor. The discussion is interesting and instructive; the illustrations, which are well reproduced, having been chosen from the works of such early writers as Henri de Mondeville (1314), Bartholomæus Anglicus (1482), Guy de Chauliac (1430?), Mondina (1493), Ketham (1495) and many other writers. Many of these illustrations have been previously given by Locy,<sup>2</sup> Sudhoff,<sup>3</sup> Choulant<sup>4</sup> and others.

<sup>1</sup> *Annals of Medical History*, I., no. 4, 1917 (issued February, 1919).

<sup>2</sup> "Anatomical Illustrations before Vesalius," *Jour. Morphol.*, 1911, XXII., no. 4.

<sup>3</sup> "Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der Anatomie im Mittelalter," Leipzig, 1908.

<sup>4</sup> "Geschichte der anatomischen Abbildungen," Leipzig, 1852.